

## Pure grace on the hoof

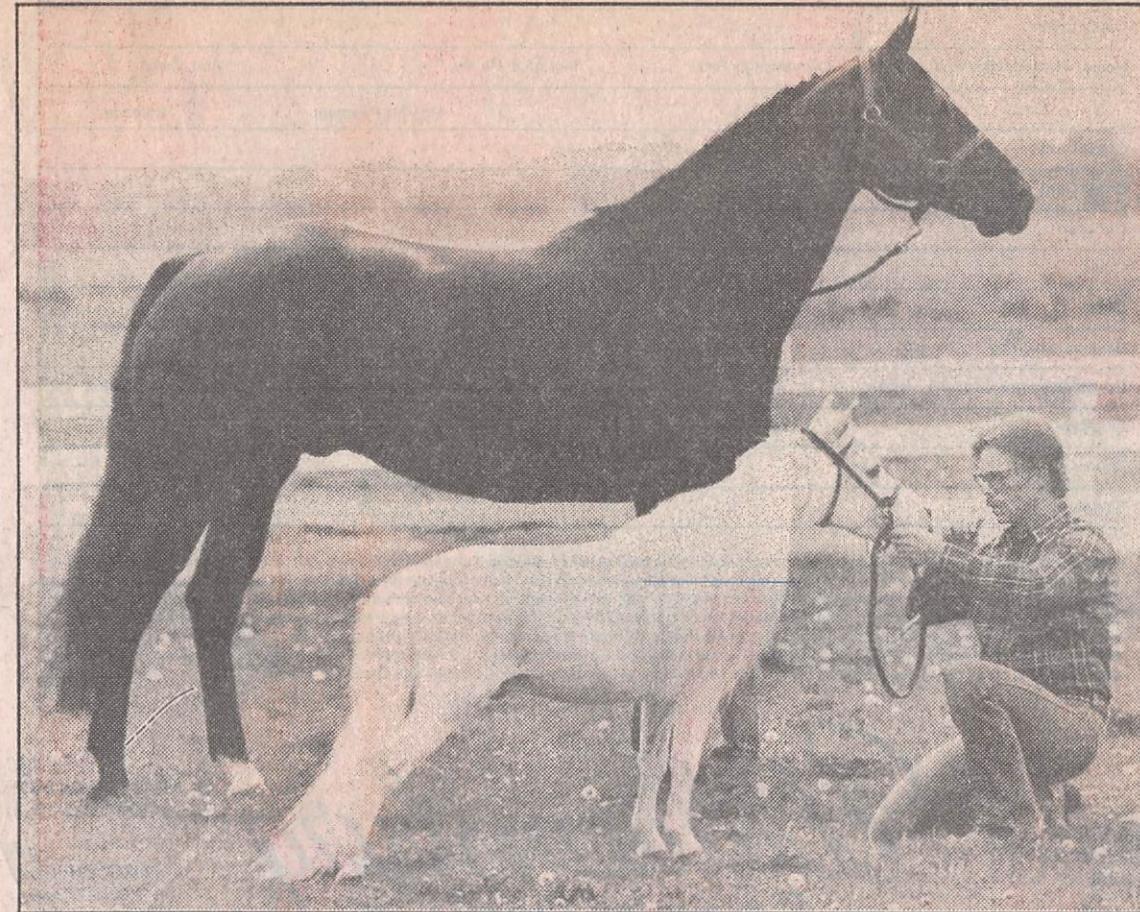
Dennis Patterson Photo

Dozens of the best-looking and graceful Arabian horses in the West were at the Spanish Fork fairgrounds Saturday for the All-Arabian Horse Show. Entertainer Wayne Newton also had some of his stock participating in various

categories including trail classes, English pleasure and Western Open. The horses were judged on looks, how well groomed they were, if they moved into the gates at the right time and if they pick up the trainer's leads.



# Flying W.F. Royal Blue, the horse of a different size



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARRY BRYANT

**Handler Dale Rickford says a minihorse thinks big, the way a full-sized one does.**

A horse is a horse of course. But Ann Dangerfield owns a horse of a different size: Flying W.F. Royal Blue, a miniature American breed with a name longer than he is.

And don't call him a "pony." He's a "mini," just like the bottles.

"Inside his head he thinks he's a stallion 16 hands high," says Dale Rickford, who cares for and grooms Royal Blue for horse shows.

Breeding and raising "American minis," in fact, is fast becoming the rage. National Geographic devoted two dozen pages of a recent issue to minihorses. A group of American nuns has taken to raising them to pay for expenses. More and more American families are buying them as pets and keeping them in the backyard with the family dog. They don't eat much, they're not much trouble, and they're good with kids.

"Their popularity has grown an awful lot recently," says Rickford. "I've seen them from \$5,000 to \$50,000. And I have to say, I find those prices incredible."

Dangerfield has a couple of American minis. The sire of her small white stallion was a national champion and his grandsire also walked off with the honor. Royal

Please see HORSE on C2

# Auctioneer sees fat days for beef, lamb producers

By Bruce Hills

Deseret News staff writer

2-26-87

LOGAN — One of the nation's top livestock auctioneers — who conducts more than 150 auctions a year — sees good times ahead for beef and lamb producers and renewed strength in agriculture throughout the Mountain West.

Dean H. Parker, whose headquarters is the 110-acre Logan River Ranch a few miles southwest of Logan, is seldom home. In an average year, he'll log more than half a million miles.

In just the first two months of 1987, he visited 25 different states conducting auctions — most of them livestock — but also many farm, land, machinery and equipment auctions.

Parker says steer and sheep numbers across the nation are as low as they have ever been. "They are half of what they were in the early 1970s, when prices were high and production costs low.

"The low numbers now are helping to keep prices higher than they've been in years. In the world of supply and demand, the demand is now about equal to the supply."

He sees good times ahead for cattle and sheep raisers if production does not increase dramatically. He sees more interest from the American consumer in red meat.

"We've taken a beating from physicians and dieti-

cians in the past few years calling beef and lamb fat and claiming that chicken, fish and turkey are better for you.

"But I see this trend reversing. Beef and lamb taste good, and Americans know it. In the second place — did you ever think about all the grease and fat that goes into the cooking of fast food chicken and fish?"

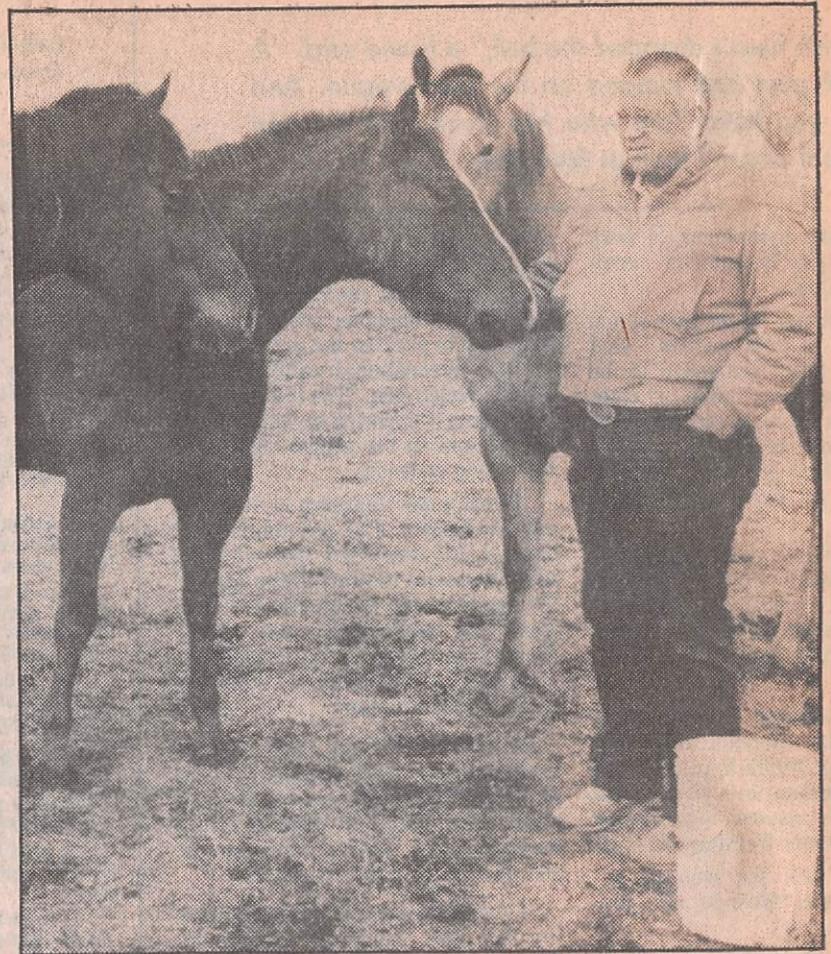
Parker says a host of things have cropped up in the past decade to take the place of beef on Americans' menus besides chicken, turkey and fish — "pizza and so many ready to eat prepared foods, but Americans always like steak and in the future I see them liking it even more."

He said farmers are growing leaner beef and lamb and are producing smaller roasts and more varied cuts of meat to meet the new consumer demands.

Agriculture in Utah, as in most of the Mountain West, is centered on the livestock industry. Most of the hay and grain grown in Utah, for instance, is fed to cattle. Most of the effort in agriculture in Utah and surrounding states ends up as meat on the table.

"When the livestock industry is healthy, agriculture in Utah is healthy and the whole state's economy is better."

Please see PARKER on B2



PHOTOGRAPHY/ BRUCE HILLS

Dean H. Parker raises quarter horses at his Logan River Ranch.